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HE DISAGREES WITH MR. DUKE

SIR,—It was with a great deal of interest that I read the article in the April number of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* entitled "Politics and Prosperity," by James B. Duke. I have great respect for the article, in that it is the expression of the point of view of the great majority of business men.

As I read that article I felt that I should like to take issue with your esteemed contributor in regard to free trade and the Administration's free-trade policy.

In the first place, he would have us believe that it was the deliberate policy of our Government to lower the tariff for the sole purpose of increasing our foreign purchases. That such should be the case is necessarily inevitable, but he is not justified in assuming that an increase of imports would diminish the opportunities for employment. It undoubtedly would release labor from the less productive industries, but it would only make it available for the more productive industries. He seems oblivious to the fact that imports always tend to equal exports, that these increased imports must necessarily be paid for by increased exports, and not gold.

He, seemingly, is an exponent of the old seventeenth-century mercantilism. He would have us believe that the welfare of our country is dependent on a balance of trade, a balance of exports over imports. He would have us exchange consumable goods for gold bars. He forgets that this incoming gold would so inflate prices as to make continued exportation impossible.

Again, he displays a surprising ignorance of the existence of free-trade policies. Let him consult, if he will, the tariff history of this country, and he will find that a free-trade doctrine lived and was discussed in 1789, and that free trade has always had its exponents since that time. Whether I should have been a free-silver advocate in 1896 I do not know, but I do know that I am in favor of free trade in 1915.

With all due respect for Mr. Duke, and the great mass of business men he represents, to whom no small amount of this country's industrial success may be attributed, I must confess that I am not in harmony with their trade-balance ideas; it seems to me that the industrial evolution of all mankind has been from independence to interdependence. I hope and believe that it will continue to be the case; and I feel assured that this final interdependence will be one of the greatest factors in the final realization of universal peace.

CLETUS V. WOLFE.

BLOOMVILLE, OHIO.

FROM AN OLD FRIEND

SIR,—I write this to thank you for your letter to Lord Northcliffe and the *London Times*. Nothing published that I have seen so completely expresses the sentiment of the American people toward the people of England. I wish it could be read by every intelligent man and woman in both countries. It not only expresses the sentiment, but it gives the reason for the existence of the sentiment. The subject is a delicate one to discuss, but you did it ably, discreetly, and effectively.

Should your fear "that the two peoples are gradually growing asunder from this sentiment" eventuate, it will be a sad day for Christendom, as the evangelization of the race depends upon the final action of these two nations.

The reference to England's hypocritical conduct during our War of the Rebellion was fitting, and adroitly done. But beyond all, and above all, were those candid, true words: "Neutral? Yes, in the name of the nation, but not in our heart of hearts." Like all your letters, it is complete, exhaustive, and will help to correct and establish a better state of feeling between the two nations.

Incidentally, I wish, as one of the common people, to say that THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is a very important factor in our nation. Like your friend from Georgia, I wish that "the bounteous storehouse of knowledge of THE REVIEW could fill the news-stands of our country, instead of the inferior periodicals of fiction and romance." I rejoice that for a hundred years its stalwart influence for the right has blessed our people.

Please pardon this letter from an old man whose next birthday will be his ninety-second.

Seventy years ago I first read THE REVIEW, and have read it at intervals since. I have several volumes, and prize them highly. It stands at the head of literature in this country. May God bless and keep it for all time as an organ for the improvement and exaltation of man.

J. S. BOIES.

VILLISCA, IOWA.

THE GREATEST OF WORLD'S FAIRS

SIR,—I always read your editorials with the greatest of pleasure. Needless to say, I was not exactly pleased with the last one on page thirty-two of the April number. It is not right for a magazine with so large a circulation as yours to put such a slight on the World Exposition now being held at our gates. Just to see the artistic groupings of trees and shrubs, the wondrous beauty of the hundreds of thousands of flowers, and, more than all, the wonderful harmony of color, is alone worth a trip across the continent. I am not even speaking of the buildings, on which \$50,000,000 has been expended, or of the exhibits, which represent \$300,000,000 more. They speak for themselves. I have already been forty-three times, and I have not seen one-fourth of its beauties yet. I have traveled the world over, and never have I seen any one thing so beautiful as the Fine Arts Building at night, with its trees, its statuary, its coloring, its architecture, all reflected in its lagoon, and each part brought out in relief by the wonderful lighting effects. Pity unto you and all who may not have an opportunity of visiting this beauty-spot during the brief ten months of its existence!

A SUBSCRIBER.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

[We meant no slight upon the great exposition. Everybody who has seen it says that it is the most artistic and impressive ever made by mortals. The whole United States should go.—EDITOR.]

A STATESMAN-LIKE UTTERANCE

SIR,—I have just finished reading "A Letter to *The Times*" in the March edition of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, and want to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart. Statesman-like in its utterance, profound in its